

things that could never possibly get passed if people knew what they were voting on. So it is comprehensive and massive so you can hide those things that could never pass on their own if people knew what they were voting on.

So it is amazing to see in politics how perception that is completely false can be considered true just because people are saying it. I know. I was here, and I am grateful that TED CRUZ got elected. Without his advice, his meeting with us, encouraging, doing all he could in the Senate, I don't believe we would have stopped amnesty, and I don't believe this election would even be competitive. The Democratic nominee would walk away with this thing had the Gang of Eight bill been passed as they wanted.

Mr. Speaker, might I inquire how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. YOUNG of Iowa). The gentleman from Texas has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. GOHMERT. One other thing that has been really intriguing, Mr. Speaker, this verse has been quoted time and time again in recent years. I know there are people that freak out when I quote Bible verse because they had one of these liberal teachers that didn't teach them the truth about American history and the fact that the Bible has been the most quoted book—nothing even close—so many times more than any other book or any other author ever in American history. The Bible has been quoted on the House floor and Senate floor by Presidents more than any other book.

□ 1345

The President says we are not a Christian Nation. I used to say I won't debate that, and now I think he is right. But we were. We started out based on Judeo-Christian principles, so much so that a very thorough decision by the U.S. Supreme Court back in the late 1800s, when we had finally done the right thing and eliminated the scourge to this Nation that had held this Nation back for many decades, called slavery, was finally ended.

The Supreme Court went through all of the foundings, the Founders, the statements of the Founders, statements and founding documents, statements of State constitutions, and concluded after all of the recitation of evidence—130, 140 years later—they said: This is a Christian Nation. Well, it was back in the late 1800s.

It doesn't hurt to still quote scripture. We have other religions represented in the House—friends. You can be Muslim, Buddhist, atheist, agnostic, whatever you want to be. I have got a number of really wonderful Jewish friends in Congress. You can be whatever you want to be because a government based on Judeo-Christian principles will protect everyone's rights.

Islam will not protect rights like that. There is really not another religion that, beliefs of which, will protect

every religion, no religion, equally. That is because we know. God gives us those choices. So who are we to take them away?

Back in 2 Chronicles, the verse is very clear, and God was pointing this out. I realize Moses—it is up there, the only full face profile here in this room—was considered the greatest law-giver of all times, although the Supreme Court last summer basically said: Forget what Moses said and God said. He didn't know what he was talking about. When Jesus quoted Moses about marriage, he didn't know what he was talking about. They were a bunch of fools. They didn't know. We are much smarter than Moses and Jesus. Now our Supreme Court majority is our God.

But 2 Chronicles 7:14: "If my people who are called by my name humble themselves, pray, seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land."

I preached a sermon on that last summer entitled "Humble or Crumble." We do need to humble ourselves as a Nation, but we don't even have to do it as a Nation. It makes clear it is not everybody. It doesn't have to be everybody in America. Just those who are called by the Lord's name. If you humble yourself, pray, see God's face, turn from your wicked ways: I will hear from heaven, I am going to heal your land. You will be blessed beyond.

I really think that after the Civil War and we finally ended the scourge of slavery, that is when we started being blessed beyond measure. So the 20th century was just absolutely incredible, and we became a superpower blessed beyond measure. When we became a superpower, of course, like so many times in history, nations that were begun on the Judeo beliefs, once they turned from acknowledging God, then God let them go.

That is why Christians had believed this was such an important verse. I have heard it thousands of times in recent years.

I just have to note, Mr. Speaker, it is interesting now that Christian leaders across the Nation have said: I think we are going to have to change this. Let's have a new translation. How about if we say: If my people are called by my name, we'll select a leader who says he has never humbled himself, he has never asked forgiveness of God, if we can just get a leader who will never humble himself, then God will hear that from heaven and he will heal our land.

I want to close with these words from Francis Scott Key, April 14, 1814. As a captive on a British ship and the British unmercifully bombed Fort McHenry, he didn't figure there was much left. When the morning came and there was Old Glory, he penned The Star Spangled Banner.

I will close with the last verse, Mr. Speaker:

"O! thus be it ever, when free men shall stand Between their loved home

and the war's desolation; Blest with vict'ry and peace, may the Heav'n-rescued land Praise the Pow'r that hath made, and preserved us as a Nation! Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just; And this be our motto, 'In God is our trust!' And the star spangled banner in triumph shall wave O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!"

May we remember those words.

I yield back the balance of my time.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The Speaker announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 238. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to authorize the Director of the Bureau of Prisons to issue oleoresin capicum spray to officers and employees of the Bureau of Prisons.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on February 25, 2016, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills:

H.R. 890. To revise the boundaries of certain John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System units in Florida.

H.R. 3262. To provide for the conveyance of land of the Illiana Health Care System of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Danville, Illinois.

H.R. 4056. To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to convey to the Florida Department of Veterans Affairs all right, title, and interest of the United States to the property known as "The Community Living Center" at the Lake Baldwin Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic, Orlando, Florida.

H.R. 4437. To extend the deadline for the submittal of the final report required by the Commission on Care.

H.R. 487. To allow the Miami Tribe of Oklahoma to lease or transfer certain lands.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 51 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, February 29, 2016, at noon for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4478. A letter from the Director, BPMS, Agricultural Research Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Changes to Fees and Payment Methods (RIN: 0518-AA05) received February 25, 2016, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Added by Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4479. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health